

The Times-Dispatch.

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THURSDAY, January 10, 1908.

A CURIOSITY IN JOURNALISM.

In the Statuary Hall of the National Capitol each State is entitled to two representatives. Virginia has one, George Washington, but the vacancy is to be filled with the statue of Robert E. Lee. Washington and Lee are two famous names, but we doubt, if measured by the proper standard, if Lee is entitled to the place at Washington's side.

No man's private character surpasses Lee's; but we do not build monuments in honor of private virtues. In only one direction in public life was Lee great, and that was as a soldier. Of all the various kinds of fame men may achieve, that of a soldier requires the least individual excellence. His success depends not on himself, but on the generals under him, and they in turn on their subordinates and so on down until all may rest on the endurance and courage of a scout or spy. Military fame is thus a creature to a great monument on which alone the eye rests, unmindful of the stones in the foundation, but for the unseen strength of which the lofty summit would fall to the dust.

Individual efforts count for little in the success or failure of a warrior. We doubt if any man is really great whose sole claim to fame is his record as a soldier. His victories are the victories of many; his plans the plans of many. The commander-in-chief, a place in which is comparatively brief proof, is commonly thought a sinner, but the man who plans to have something for the soldiers to eat when they require it does more for the cause than the leader in charge. No commander could stay in the field longer than the civil branch of the government sustained him. Stripped of all of what others do to contribute to his fame the warrior is left with but one attribute entirely his own, personal courage, and that is dwarfed when measured by the courage of a game cock.

The world holds no higher example of a soldier than Napoleon. Yet we find rather have the fame that belongs to the author of "The Ties on a Country Church Yard," than to have been that matchless force of blood and murder known as Napoleon. Lee's fame rests solely on his military record, and no record of that nature is sufficient to justify the selection of its possessor for this place in the Capitol.

As between Jefferson and Lee, there is no question, in our mind, but what Jefferson is the greater man of the two—Warrenton Virginian.

We reproduce in full this remarkable article as a curiosity in Virginia journalism. Until it appeared we had not imagined that there was a Virginia editor capable of such an utterance, nor any Virginian familiar with the career of General Lee so blind to the virtues of the man. It is simply astounding.

Robert E. Lee was not great because he was a great soldier. He was a great soldier because he was a great man. His career as a soldier was simply the opportunity to manifest to the world his noble traits of character. These were in evidence on all occasions. They were in evidence when he surrendered his commission in the United States army to cast his lot with Virginia.

They were in evidence when he knelt among the men in prayer meeting and in humility and simplicity committed himself to the care of a fatherly God. They were manifested in his gentleness, in his willingness at all times to take upon himself the blame of blunders and failures that others might be shielded.

They were manifested, as Mr. Charles Francis Adams, a New England soldier, puts it, in his restraint in victory, his resource and patient endurance in the face of adverse fortune, the serene dignity with which he in the end triumphed over defeat.

But he seemed to Mr. Adams greatest in his humanity in arms and his scrupulous regard for the most advanced rules of civilized warfare. He adds: Reckless of life to attain the legitimate ends of war, he sought to mitigate its horrors. Opposed to him at Gettysburg, I have forty years later, in the name of justice, no more creditable order ever issued from a commanding general than that formulated and signed by Robert E. Lee, as at the close of June, 1863, he addressed to his army. "Who war is a disgrace," he then declared, "can befall the army, and through it our whole people, than the perpetration of barbarous outrages upon the innocent and defenseless, and the wanton destruction of private property. Such conduct not only disgraces the perpetrators and all connected with them, but is subversive of the discipline and efficiency of the army, and destructive of the ends of our mission. It must be remembered that we make war only on armed men."

And here, as a soldier of the Army of the Potomac, let me bear my testimony to such of the army of Northern Virginia as may now be present. While war at its best is bad, yet its necessary and unavoidable badness was not in that campaign enhanced. In scope and spirit Lee's order was observed, and I doubt if a host of such orders were ever issued by a country, or fell back from it in retreat, leaving behind it less cause for hate and bitterness than did the army of Northern Virginia in that memorable campaign which culminated at Gettysburg.

Strangely enough, this New England soldier, who fought against Lee at Gettysburg, takes issue with the editor of the Warrenton Virginian and says in effect that Lee was the peer of Washington!

We believe that in one respect he was greater than Washington. In any rate he was put to one supreme test, to which Washington was not subjected, and he stood it like a man. Lee was great in victory, but he was grander and nobler at Appomattox. It was then and there, in the hour of defeat, that the peace and true nobility of the man were most resplendent. He could have prolonged the war indefinitely, for his men would have followed him into the shelter of the mountains and kept up a guerilla warfare until the last man fell. But when General Lee saw that the cause was lost he quit fighting, being unwilling that another drop of blood should be needlessly shed on either side. In this sublime sacrifice the patriot and the statesman triumphed over the warrior, and Robert E. Lee showed that he was made in the image of God and possessed of the highest endowments which a generous Creator vouchsafes to man.

We cannot but feel pity for him who draws no distinction between Napoleon Bonaparte and Robert E. Lee. We cannot but feel pity for him who sees in Lee nothing but the qualities of a good warrior. It is a pitiful confession.

THE DISPENSARY BILL.

The dispensary bill proposed by Senator Claytor provides that the question of establishing dispensaries for the sale of intoxicating liquors in any county or magisterial district of the State, or in any city, shall be submitted to the qualified voters of such county, city or magisterial district, upon petition to the judge of the Circuit or Corporation Court by one-fourth of the persons voting at the preceding November election, and if a majority of the votes cast in such an election are in the affirmative, the judge shall appoint three citizens to constitute a dispensary board. This board will then have charge of the dispensary and will appoint a manager to dispense the liquors. The manager will sell only for cash and will sell no liquor by the drink. All liquor sold is required to be pure, and will be sold in sealed packages, not to be drunk where sold, no package to contain less than half a pint nor more than four gallons. The dispensary is to be open only in the daytime.

The profits accruing from the dispensary are disposed of in the following manner: One-eighth to the State of Virginia; three-eighths to the town or city for its general purposes; one-half to its public schools, and where the dispensary is in the country, and not in a town or city, then one-eighth to the State, three-eighths to the road fund and one-half to the support of the public schools.

The advantages claimed for this system are: First, that consumers would get pure liquors; that there would be no screened saloons, and that liquor would not be sold to carousers in the night-time. Some time ago, while on a visit to the city of Athens, Ga., where the system is in force, we were shown through the dispensary of that city by a member of the board and informed as to its practical operation. This citizen was a temperate man and a temperance man and heartily in favor of reducing the liquor evil to the minimum. When asked for his opinion he unhesitatingly said that this method of dealing with the liquor traffic was the most practicable that he had ever seen and the solution, as far as there could be a solution, of the liquor evil. The dispensary fronts on one of the main streets and there are no screens. It is a perfectly orderly place and there is never a gathering of men for social drinking, as drinking in the room is not permitted. While we were present many people came in and bought liquor, but they went out as soon as the purchase was made. To all appearances it was a model establishment, and there was lacking every objection that is raised to the open saloon.

So far, so good, but the dispensary man admitted that there was throughout the city a number of "blind tigers," where liquor was sold by the drink and where the evils of the saloon prevailed, and he also admitted that it was practically impossible to abolish them.

This shows that after all it is a matter of public sentiment. If there is a demand on the part of a large number of people in any community for saloons—that is, for places where liquor is sold by the drink—it will be very difficult for the authorities to prevent such establishments in one way or another from doing business.

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HOME INSURANCE COMPANIES.

In an article on fire insurance companies, the Suffolk Herald of last week says:

The Richmond Times very properly takes credit for bringing to the attention of the people of Virginia the advantages of having home life insurance companies conducted on the "old line plan," and not writing industrial business, as the organization of such a company in Richmond a few years ago was largely a result of its agitation of the subject. We rejoice in the success that has attended both of the Virginia life insurance companies.

If the Times desires to again help Richmond, Virginia, and the South, let it advocate at once the organization of one or two additional fire insurance companies in Virginia. Fire insurance is the handmaid of commerce, is largely the basis of all credit, and business men must have it. While the politician naturally howls a little about trusts, monopolies and excessive rates, and while fire insurance is disastrous at times, yet the companies must get premiums enough to pay the losses, all expenses and dividends, in addition to setting aside the proper legal reserve.

We thank our contemporary for its kind allusions to this paper, and assure it that The Times is willing to do anything in its power to promote these home enterprises. There are already in the city of Richmond two splendid home fire insurance companies, the Virginia State and the Virginia Fire & Marine, and they enjoy the confidence and good will of the people. These companies have been building themselves up slowly, but they have built on sure foundations and are as safe and sound as any. They have been carefully and conservatively managed and have been able to meet all their losses promptly, and to pay a fair dividend to their stockholders.

Our Suffolk contemporary says that if any one doubts that home insurance companies would get the needed patronage from Virginia and other Southern States he has only to study the official statements of the fire insurance companies doing business in Virginia and North Carolina to find that the preference of the people is for the home institution.

It says, also, that in the present state of Virginia's prosperity, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and mechanics are better off than they have been for years; the banks have larger deposits, showing thousands of dollars of uninvested capital, and it believes that if the subject were properly agitated and presented to the people they would subscribe liberally to stock in home companies.

This is encouraging as coming from a sensible and conservative newspaper and shows an improved condition in public sentiment. Before the war the South was dependent upon the North for its manufactured supplies, and our people fell into the habit of sending thither for practically everything except what could be produced on the farm. We seemed to have the idea that manufacturing could only be done in New England, and even after factories were started up in the South we were suspicious of them, and gave the preference to the foreign products. In the same way we fell into the habit of taking out insurance in foreign companies, and years ago at least one notable effort to establish a Virginia insurance company turned out most disastrously.

But the people are learning better, and are forming better habits. We are getting to be a great manufacturing community, and we are learning that the home articles are as good as the best. We are also learning that home insurance in reputable companies is as good as foreign insurance.

The great advantage of home insurance companies is that they organize home capital and keep it here for the benefit of our own people. The city of Hartford, Conn., owes its prosperity very largely to its home insurance companies which supply capital for business enterprises at a low rate of interest. The subject is one of supreme importance to the people of Virginia and deserves their consideration.

The Trades and Labor Council of Richmond has paid a just tribute to a noble woman of this city who has interested herself in the question of child labor, and who had the courage recently to express her views on the subject before the Legislature. She is a woman of refinement and modesty and none except those who know her well understands what a sacrifice she made in thus discharging what she believed to be a duty to humanity.

God bless the noble women of Virginia! They have no disposition to go into politics; they have no disposition to jostle men in the public walks; but they recognize that there is a work in civic affairs for women to do, and they have the courage even to overcome their "feminine diffidence" and do it.

The beauty of it all is that these duties are discharged without any sacrifice or compromise of modesty.

The health commissioner of the city of Chicago, in a recent address, had for his subject "The Increasing Prevalence of Pneumonia," and in the course of his remarks he said:

"Eighteen deaths per one thousand in Chicago are caused by the disease and the percentage of pneumonia deaths to the total mortality have doubled in Baltimore in the last two years."

Laymen have observed in this part of the country that there is more of the dreaded disease than in former years and that it is often fatal than it used to be, all of which is an admonition to exercise great care, especially in such weather as has been prevailing for the past week.

Mr. Addicks, of Delaware, was a frequent caller at the White House in these, the trying days of his career. He also calls on Senator Hanna every time he runs over to Washington, and that is every day or two. One result of his frequent calls on the last named is that an urgent order has gone out to the anti-Addicks Republicans in the Delaware Legislature to let the sky fall before they combine with the Democrats, and thereby let a Democrat get into the Senate for the short term. It has not yet developed what kind of an order has gone from the President, but it is very plain that all the strong wires at Washington are being pulled in Addicks' favor and the cry is still "Addicks or nobody."

In a recent address before the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington President Roosevelt made the point that a great deal of high-minded endeavor falls of accomplishing results because it is misdirected. "There are many philanthropic movements led and supported by most excellent people," said Mr. Roosevelt, "which, nevertheless, have produced results altogether disproportionate to the efforts put forth, because they have failed to recognize the need of human nature at the same time that an effort was being made to better human nature."

The President would do well to apply this philosophy to his own efforts to wipe out the color-line.

The Atlanta Journal accurately sums up a great deal of Southern sentiment in the following paragraph:

"If the intelligence of the North is still in doubt about the intelligence of the South, let us toward the present occupant of the White House, let it try to imagine how the North would feel if a Ben Tillman were President of the United States. We mean no undue disrespect to the strenuous, fire-eating South Carolinian, but Roosevelt is the Ben Tillman of the North."

A bill has been offered in the North Carolina State Senate by Senator Webb to give to judges the power to limit the speeches of counsel when addressing either the court or a jury. This is an innovation, and, strange to say, the lawyers are in the main in favor of it. It is needless to say that the people who are liable to jury duty are also very much in favor of it, and it is very likely that the bill will pass and become the law of North Carolina.

The southern editors make a serious mistake when they assume that the northern people are clamoring to have the negro placed on a social equality—Washington Post.

This southern newspaper does not assume any such nonsense. We know that the decent white people of the North are as much opposed as any to social equality. What disgusts us is the hypocrisy of those northerners who pretend otherwise.

The Senate has selected three first-rate men, Messrs. Lyon G. Tyler, of William and Mary; Mr. W. A. Bowles, of the Virginia Institute for the Deaf and Blind, and Dr. C. W. Kent, of the University, to be members of the State Board of Education. It could not have done otherwise with such an array of competent men to choose from, any three of whom would have done honor to the Board.

President Roosevelt, in his most recent tribute to William McKinley, spoke of Mr. McKinley's kindness. It was in that more than anything else that Mr. McKinley was great. He had a kind heart that was full of love for God and humanity. He never said harsh things; he did not curse the assassin who murdered him. He was always gentle and loving to his mother, to his wife,

to his friends, to his people, and to his why all the people loved him. Such a man is always loved.

The chaps who have been swindling New York city by reducing the assessments of tax-payers must have been, reading the parable of the Unjust Steward.

The negroes of Georgia have taken a load of responsibility off of the President's shoulders. They have kindly consented to select for him the colored people to be appointed to Federal offices in that State.

Brazil and Bolivia are threatening to go to war. What they are going to fight about both not appear, just to keep their hands in, we presume.

Senator Teller can now read his little comparative clear. Ex-Senator Wolcott concedes the legality of the election.

But few legislators are home happy at the end of a session unless each has added at least one new law to the many on the books.

The trouble of electing a successor to Senator McLaughlin, of South Carolina, was not in the Legislature. The primary fixed Mr. Lattimer months ago.

Newport News is mightily aroused over the changing question, and now that the Mayor has vetoed the bill abolishing the same, the whole thing is to be fought out again in the Council.

The printer took liberties with our spelling yesterday and put an extra "i" in the name of Robert Emmet.

Castro seems willing to agree to almost any old thing except to give up his rather unpleasant job.

The latest "Iowa idea" is that a red-headed girl is objectionable as a prospective daughter-in-law.

The Mayor of Norfolk has "mended his hold" and is again after the liquor dealers with a sharp stick.

Farmers will be rejoiced to know that the seed appropriation has been enlarged.

What Fort San Carlos most needed was a squad of North American gunners.

Congress has only about thirty days more in which to do nothing.

The North Carolina Legislature also has an anti-Bible kissing bill before it.

With a Comment or Two.

The Richmond Times announces: "By the way, the country waits with much interest to hear what the Governor of North Carolina is going to say to the Governor of South Carolina when they exchange wireless greetings."

"Simmon beer and ginger bread is the length and strength of the wireless proposition," so far as the present executives are concerned. Right?

Thanks for the information.

With a new Constitution working smoothly and a new Governor just inaugurated, the good State of Alabama is at belated peace with all the world and right in the middle of the big road to prosperity—Richmond Times.

Thanks: We've got a good Constitution and a good administration to set it going, and we think we have a Legislature which will enact good law. Then Alabama will walk away with prosperity in tow and get very near the head of the procession—Montgomery Advertiser.

That's her alphabetical position anyhow.

The Richmond Times says the law requiring the sale of weapons taken from prisoners, at public auction is stupid. Undoubtedly if the meaning of the law is clear. But the Times may be interested to learn that the police justices of this town have decided that the weapons need not be sold at public auction and has stopped the practice. Justice John might find the example worth the emulation.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Respectfully referred to Justice Crutcher.

Many of the Northern people are growing very tired of the negro. They are fast getting a negro problem of their own and professing to have the best country in the world. It is more and more difficult of solution—Roanoke Times.

By and by they will send it back where it belongs for solution and quit meddling with it.

Remarks About Richmond.

Clifton Forge Review: What Richmond is today is due mainly to the loyalty of its citizens in standing by each other and talking up the advantages of the city in order of season, and the same can be truthfully said of Roanoke, a city that was several years ago an unimportant village.

Norfolk County Democrat: The first thing Richmond knows, the Legislature, her pride and joy, will be in that monkey trust.

Ridgeway Journal: Richmond, scarcely finds one lost boy and another disappears. Wouldn't it be well for the city to bell her "inerrigibles"?

Spiked Their Own Gun.

The removal of the duty from antihelical coal in order to encourage the importation of foreign coal and cheapen the price to home consumers is a confession by the Republicans that under the operations of the tariff the consumer pays the tax. In several national campaigns of the latter part of the last century the Republicans stoutly maintained that the foreigners paid the tax. One of the guns the Republicans expected to use in 1904 has thus been spiked.—Mobile Register.

Ayer's Hair Vigor

Turning gray? Why not have the early, dark, rich color restored? It's easily done with Ayer's Hair Vigor. A splendid dressing, too.

To his friends, to his people, and to his why all the people loved him. Such a man is always loved.

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An Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Charlottesville Progress says: "Editorial force that Lee statue matter in Washington, Va. The times are no hope for it. The great general's fame is secure, and the South should rest content. Some day—and the day is not very far distant—we think—the demand for a likeness of the great Confederate in the country's capital will be national. Then with entire appropriateness the gift can be made. Meanwhile, Virginia is far too jealous of her chieftain's name to run even the smallest chance of having it the subject of either political discord or contention."

According to the Newport News Press, the "Jintown Expo" is not superfluous. It says:

"The superstition regarding Friday as an unpropitious day will be ignored in the preparations for the Jamestown Exposition. It was on Friday that the first representative legislative body in America met at Jamestown; and it was on Friday that Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown."

Commenting on the great cost of rural mail delivery, the Salem Sentinel says:

"The people want it however, and it is a great step in the onward march of civilization, and the tremendous cost is not considered."

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says: "In his worry over the subject of appointments of colored people to office, the President is said to have decided to select an advisory board. He does not need it. He has Payne and Clarkson."

The Lynchburg Advance is level-headed on the school question. It says: "One of the evils of to-day is the multiplication of schools. This objection applies to our primary schools, our colleges and our universities. This multiplication tends to disperse means and prevent that concentration of effort, which is essential to the best results. It is better to have fewer institutions, well supported, and well patronized than a number struggling for existence and engaged in ruinous rivalry."

Trend of Thought In Dixie Land

The Atlanta Constitution makes this point:

"No negro is appointed to Federal office in a Southern State who does not receive his appointment because he is a negro, and it might be added, can deliver negro votes, or through the appointment influence the delivery of negro votes."

Augusta Chronicle: The man who would, six months ago, have said that Theodore Roosevelt would permit a German vessel to stand off the Venezuelan coast and, by bombardment, raze Venezuelan forts, would have been pronounced a dunce.

Arkansas Gazette: Congressman Babcock says the Republican party must redeem its promises if it is to be successful in future elections. Mr. Babcock should remember that copy book top lines are not expected to come from the mouths of practical politicians.

Birmingham Age-Herald: Apostle Smoot will now be tried before a jury of gentlemen, and he will need a good deal of testimony before he secures a favorable verdict. That jury is packed.

Memphis Scimitar: When Gum Shoe Bill Stone seats himself in the senatorial chair vacated by George Graham Vest, nature will cry out against the vacuum that remains.

Nashville News: The experience of New Orleans in regard to the "Jim-Crow" car law should be an object-lesson to other cities. Those who propose such a remedy for the occasional annoyances and inconveniences that accompany travel in a southern city are simply hunting more and worse kinds of trouble. Nashville's negro population has given her the minimum of trouble up to date. Let well enough alone.

NORTH CAROLINA SENTIMENT.

In a long editorial on the contemplated visit of the Boston colored attorney and his wife to the White House the Wilmington Messenger says:

"We do not know whether Lewis' wife is a negro or a white woman. She may be the latter, as the records show that every year on an average of thirty white women of Boston marry negro men. If she is white, it is all the more reason why she should not be received in decent white society or recognized by self-respecting negroes."

Speaking of Senator Tillman's complaint that the press is to a great extent ignoring his speech arraigning the Attorney-General, the Raleigh Times says:

"Senator Tillman says that he is disappointed because the press failed to take any notice of his speech arraigning Attorney-General Knox for his failure to prosecute the coal barons in the recent strike. The fellow who jumps on every body all the time need not expect to have much attention paid to his remarks or to exert any influence either."

The Charlotte News says: It is seldom that a politician of the Dobbin stripe gets to the point where he willingly confesses perjury. The question that will worry the Congressional Committee now is which of the Dobbin stories they can believe.

The Raleigh Post walls where it should for one cause, rejoice. It says:

"But a little more than thirty days remain of the present Congress. But how much good legislation can be left undone in that time. Anti-trust legislation, for example."

The Charlotte Observer says: After passing on the primary system of electing Senators, which is virtually "the popular election of Senators," especially in the case of the Congressional Committee now is which of the Dobbin stories they can believe.

Something really satisfactory! Will put your hair in high-grade condition for once in your life